

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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P R 100250Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1307

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

S E C R E T SEOUL 5116

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, KS, CA

SUBJECT: ROKG/CANADIAN NEGOTIATIONS ON NUCLEAR ENERGY

REF: SEOUL 5016

1. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR STILES BRIEFED AMBASSADOR ON HIS MEETING JULY 8 (REFTEL) WITH FONMIN KIM DONG JO, REGARDING NUCLEAR REPROCESSING. MEETING WAS BRIEF AND CONSISTED LARGELY OF FONMIN GIVING OFFICIAL ROKG REPLY IN WRITING. STILES NOTED THAT IT STILL NOT CLEAR WHICH NUCLEAR FUEL WOULD BE REPROCESSED SINCE CANADIANS WOULD NOT PERMIT REPROCESSING BY ROKG AND USG HAD NOT AGREED TO REPROCESSING OF ITS FUEL ELEMENTS.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PAPER GIVEN BY FONMIN TO STILES:

BEGIN QUOTE:

THE KOREAN NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM CALLS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF NINE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS UP TO 1986 TOTALING 6,600 MWE (MEGAWATTS ELECTRIC). BY THE END OF THIS CENTURY, TOTAL CAPITAL INVESTMENT REQUIRES FOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IS ESTIMATED TO BE APPROXIMATELY THIRTY-TWO BILLIONS IN U.S. DOLLARS.

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IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE STEADY AND SAFE SUPPLY OF

NUCLEAR FUEL, ADDITIONAL TEN BILLIONS IN U.S. DOLLARS ARE REQUIRED. WITHOUT THE STEADY AND TIMELY SUPPLY OF NUCLEAR FUEL AND ITS RECYCLE, THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS CAN NOT GENERATE ELECTRIC POWER, ECONOMICALLY COMPETITIVE COMPARED WITH OTHER SOURCES OF ELECTRICITY GENERATION.

THEREFORE, IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR KOREA TO BUILD UP TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITY TO HANDLE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE ECONOMICALLY. THE PURPOSE OF KOREA-FRENCH COOPERATION IS TO ESTABLISH BASIC TECHNICAL CAPABILITY FOR THE AFORE-MENTIONED FIELD, PARTICULARLY THE PEACEFUL USE OF ATOMIC ENERGY. THE FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED ACCORDINGLY WILL BE OF RESEARCH SCALE. THERE WILL BE NO RELATION BETWEEN THE SPENT FUEL FROM CANDU REACTOR AND THE RESEARCH-SCALE REPROCESSING FACILITY. END QUOTE.
SNEIDER

SECRET

NNN

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